

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00776 251717Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 W

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R 251600Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1240

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EUR/SE DIRECTOR

FOR EAGLETON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CY US CA UN

SUBJ: APPRECIATION FOR CANCON ASSISTANCE JANUARY 18

1. I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO THE CANADIANS FOR THEIR

UNFICYP CONTINGENT'S STAND-BY ASSISTANCE DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF JANUARY 18-20. THERE WAS A MOMENT JAN 18 WHEN THE CANCON VEHICLES COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONLY SAFE MEANS OF DEPARTING THE EMBASSY AREA. GENERAL CLAY BEATTIE, WHOM YOU MET AT THE UNFICYP BRIEFING, WAS EXTRAORDINARILY HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. THE CANADIANS WERE VERY RESPONSIVE IN JULY-AUGUST 1974 AND HAVE AGREED TO ASSIST US IN THE EVENT OF DISORDERS IN THE FUTURE. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THIS HAS TAKEN CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC FINESSE ON CANCON'S PART VIS-A-VIS THE GOC. CANADIANS, AS A RESULT, ARE NOW ACTING AT GOC'S REQUEST.

2. IT STRIKES ME THAT A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO THE CANADIAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, MR. JAMES RICHARDSON, MIGHT BE THE BEST CHANNEL FOR EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION, BUT PLEASE HANDLE IN WHATEVER MEANS YOU DEEM MOST SUITABLE. TEXT OF MESSAGE WHICH MIGHT BE USED BY SECDEF FOLLOWS.

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3. BEGIN SUGGESTED TEXT: I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRE-

CIATION TO THE CANADIAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE FOR THE
PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RENDERED THE U.S.
EMBASSY IN NICOSIA BY THE UNFICYP CANADIAN CONTINGENT ON 18 JAN
75. ON THAT DAY AN UNRESTRAINED GREEK-CYPRIOT CROWD ATTACKED
OUR EMBASSY HURLING ROCKS, RAMSACKING SEVERAL ROOMS AND SETTING
FIRE TO ONE WING OF THE BUILDING, THEREBY THREATENING THE SAFETY
OF 20 AMERICAN PERSONNEL. WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THE CROWD
WAS OUT OF CONTROL AND THAT CYPRIOT POLICE WERE MAKING NO ATTEMPT
TO PROTECT, THE EMBASSY CALLED ON UNFICYP FOR STAND-BY ASSIS-
TANCE. THE UN FORCE RESPONDED BY SENDING A CANADIAN TASK GROUP
IN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS WHICH WAS POSITIONED FOR POSSIBLE
EVACUATION OF THE EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH ORDER WAS EVENTUALLY RES-
TORED AND THE EMBASSY NOT EVACUATED, THE ARRIVAL OF THE CANADIAN
TASK GROUP WAS INDEED REASSURING. HAD THE SITUATION DETERIORATED
FURTHER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUCIAL TO THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN
PERSONNEL. THE MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM DISPLAYED BY THE CANA-
DIAN TASK GROUP REFLECTS MOST FAVORABLY ON THOSE INDIVIDUALS
DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND WAS IN THE BEST TRADITION OF THE CANADIAN
MILITARY SERVICE. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO COMPLIMENT BG
CLAY BEATTIE, CANCON COMMANDER AND CHIEF OF STAFF UNFICYP, FOR
HIS CAREFUL, POLITICALLY ASTUTE HANDLING OF THIS DELICATE TASK.
ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. EMBASSY NICOSIA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
I TRANSMIT WARM THANKS TO YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF CANCON,
UNFICYP. END TEXT.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NICOSI00776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750066-0856
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750215/aaaaanbx.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPRECIATION FOR CANCON ASSISTANCE JANUARY 18
TAGS: PINS, CY, US, CA, UN, UNFICYP, (BEATTIE, CLAY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006